

Richmond Dispatch Published by the Richmond Dispatch Co., Inc. 200 N. Main Street, Richmond, Va. Entered January 7, 1905, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1912. **VOTE FOR THIS AMENDMENT.** On November 5 vote "for" the amendment to section 117 of article 8 of the Constitution of Virginia with reference to the power of the General Assembly concerning the form of organization and government of cities and towns and the classification of cities according to their population. This constitutional change should be carried unanimously, for its sole purpose is to allow cities and towns to adopt more efficient forms of government than they can now secure. The passage of the change will mean, among other things, that such cities as desire to do so may adopt the commission form of government. Many of our towns and cities are prevented from progress by reason of their out-of-date and cumbersome systems of administration, and the purpose of the proposed amendment is to allow them enough latitude to secure better and more suitable methods of municipal government. This is the only constitutional change in the present Constitution of Virginia which has been and is advocated by The Times-Dispatch. As a rule, constitutional changes are undesirable unless they guarantee substantial reform. The municipal government amendment is a decided reform; its passage will tend to establish economy and efficiency in municipal government in Virginia. It is an improvement because it blazes the way for the utilization of modern machinery for increasing the output and decreasing the waste in municipal government. The greatest benefit which the passage of the change would bestow would be the opening of the opportunity for cities to try out the commission form of government. It has been demonstrated in an overwhelming number of municipalities that such a form of government is most efficient and far more satisfactory than any of the old plans of city administration. In many cities the adoption of the commission form has resulted in the reduction of the tax rate. It has eliminated waste. It has prevented duplication of work and money. It has fixed responsibility for error and extravagance in municipal administration; it has definitely lodged responsibility for maladministration upon a few men. Under our present form of city government responsibility is so utterly divided that no man or set of men can be held to account. The commission form of government has increased the health of cities and the happiness of their people. It has introduced improved facilities; it has secured satisfactory public utilities. It has given the people of cities a larger return upon their investment in the city in the form of taxes; it has made the taxpayer's dollar buy a dollar's worth. If the people of cities in other States have found new forms of government so profitable, why should not the people of Virginia be permitted to avail themselves of such municipal improvement? It may be said that this proposed amendment has no interest for the people of the country districts, but it must be pointed out in reply that if new forms of government work successfully in the larger towns and cities, these forms will gradually be extended to small towns and villages, with the inevitable result that such small municipalities will, by their economical government, attract additional population. The mere a small town grows, the more business it will have with the country surrounding it. Every voter in Virginia should vote for this proposed amendment. There is and can be no argument against it. It does not force municipalities to change their forms of government, but simply permits them to do it if they will to do so. The Times-Dispatch commends this change to the people because of the unquestionable fact that it is in the interest of the people. **PHYSICAL CULTURE FOR WOMEN.** On no class does the necessity for physical exercise press harder than upon women who work. The delicate feminine body has not been trained by centuries of daily toil to endure the strain and stress of continuous working effort. Yet, under modern industrial conditions thousands of young women are forced into the ranks of the bread-winners. The nature of their employment is usually of a monotonous and tiring routine. It does not tend to demand the active use of the body by which some of the wear and tear of nervous pressure is often relieved for men. Nor has it the elements of variety and interest that mark masculine occupations. Women's work is practically all indoors and sedentary. The efforts of the Young Women's Christian Association to promote physical culture among women are therefore doubly worthy of both praise and encouragement. The recognition by this institution that physical mental and moral health are dependent upon sound physical conditions, and that these conditions are best secured through pleasant and regular exercise in clean and stimulating environment, is a step in the right direction. Business men have long taken advantage of the gymnasium to keep "fit." They regard the hours spent in exercise of as much importance as those actually put in at the desk. They can do more work and better work when body and mind are refreshed by competitive games and recreations. The same is even truer of women. Richmond has made scant provision for taking care of its working women. Little attention has been given to the problem of housing them comfortably and safely, or of giving them diversion. The exhibition drill by Y. W. C. A. classes is an encouraging sign. It should be but the beginning of a more profitable and interesting social life for young women. The community will reap the benefits of every cent spent on taking care of this class of frugal and industrious workers who render many valuable services by their labors. Whatever can be done to make living more beautiful for them is a wise economic policy, as well as a duty based on loftier grounds. **HOW RYAN LOVES.** Thomas Fortune Ryan, delegate from the Tenth Virginia District to the Baltimore convention, contributed \$7,000 to the campaign fund of Judson Harmon. Thomas Fortune Ryan, ditto, contributed \$35,000 to the campaign fund of Oscar Underwood. No more illuminating figures have been produced before the Senate investigating committee than these tokens of how Mr. Ryan loves. Their startling juxtaposition throws light on many things, among them the presence of Mr. Ryan as a Virginia delegate without any noise or undue publicity, the vote cast by Virginia during the greater part of the Baltimore convention, the attack on Mr. Ryan by William Jennings Bryan, the spirited defense of this generous and nonpartisan giver by Congressman Flood, and Woodrow Wilson's refusal to accept financial aid from a man so intimately allied with the interests. It is quite clear that Mr. Ryan was certain of one thing. He did not want Woodrow Wilson nominated. Wilson's rejection of his money had proved that he would never do as a Ryan candidate. He was too independent and too frank and too eager to keep clean of any obligation to big business. Therefore, to be quite certain of getting a candidate at least not so emphatically opposed to him, and one he judged safe and sane, he gives with equal generosity to both other possibilities. He was not moved by any deep love for either Harmon or Underwood. If he had been he would have backed one with all his money. There was nothing idealistic about Mr. Ryan's giving. His was no lofty devotion to a cause. He gave as a cold-blooded business proposition, to make sure of beating Wilson and of getting anybody else not avowedly in opposition to his private views. Only one other instance of this split giving has been brought to light. Mr. Crane, of Chicago, wanted a Progressive to defeat the Republicans. He contributed to both Wilson and La Follette. Mr. Ryan worked on the same theory for what we must assume were other ends. We wonder what Mr. Bryan would have said at Baltimore had he known of this policy of giving with both hands so that one knew not the other. We have often differed from Mr. Bryan, but now we heartily agree with him that the man with Ryan on his side is under the necessity of proving that he is there with no discredit to the cause. It may be that Underwood and Harmon acted within their rights in sharing Mr. Ryan's nondescript generosity, but we prefer the stand taken by Woodrow Wilson. The incident shows, as other things have shown, that Wilson will in no wise be subservient to the wishes of the sub-rosa delegate from Virginia. **THE DRAMA IN RICHMOND.** Some admirable suggestions for increasing the amount and quality of theatrical entertainment in Richmond are presented in a letter elsewhere on this page. The central idea is in favor of a permanent stock company of trained actors to appear at the Academy and be supported in some more or less public way. The plays to be given would be selected from the best of the modern offering and the lighter classics. The ideals of such a dramatic experiment in Northampton, Mass., are set forth as being to present good plays for all the people and to furnish educational attractions for the students in Smith College and the high school, as well as for the mill-folk. Popular prices are to be charged and the bill changed each week. Certainly a good stock company to fill in the dark time at the theatre here, and so amuse and educate the community in dramatic art, would be an excellent thing. But we fear our correspondent fails to appreciate the danger of achieving nothing more than a mediocre exhibition of poor acting and unintelligent stage management. Unless stock companies are composed of real actors, well trained, they are probably a vicious influence upon dramatic taste. Past experience in Richmond would indicate that the purely commercial stock company is not worth encouraging. The loss we have of it is the better. On the other hand, if the solution lies in a semi-public theatre, we feel that the gentleman is too optimistic as to the stage of art development reached in this city. The people are not yet trained to look upon the theatre as an educational advantage. That a good play is as inspiring and uplifting as a good book or a fine piece of music is not recognized by those to whom the enterprise would have to look for support. Richmond is not as advanced as her Massachusetts rivals in the realization that public amusements are a vital element in molding individual character and community life. The time is not ripe for such an ambitious undertaking. But the example set by other cities in forming players' associations and drama leagues for the study of the theatre, the encouragement of the best plays and acting, and for the actual presentation by amateurs of short and modern bits might offer a way of beginning. It is necessary to provide an educated clientele before we attempt a stock company. **THE ISSUE NOT AN INDIVIDUAL.** Fine feeling and a chivalric instinct for fair play guided Woodrow Wilson in his decision to withdraw from active campaigning while Mr. Roosevelt is disabled. His personal attitude was justified by his character and training. As an individual he refused to take advantage of an opponent's individual misfortunes. Every clean and kindly American approves. But the issue of this campaign is not the fortunes of any individual, or the personal feelings of any candidate. The questions to be settled by the people are too grave to be set aside by the chance folly of a crazy man. The theory of our democracy makes our leaders and the symbols of living principles, and these principles must endure, regardless of the fate of this or that man. If the ideals and program of the Progressives have the vitality and significance claimed for them by their supporters, Colonel Roosevelt's condition is of small importance beside the larger issues. Nothing has changed in the Progressive attitude toward the tariff and the trusts. The menace of the third term, of the legalizing of monopoly by a commission, of the injustice of the protective tariff, of the centralized and personal government, is as grave now as before. The energies of the Progressives are still being actively bent to establishing this ideal of government. We agree with Mr. Bryan and Mr. Roosevelt that "Mr. Wilson owes it to himself and to the American people to continue his campaign." He is not his own master. He has been chosen as the representative of his fellow-citizens to labor for their ideals. What kindness and manliness dictate let him do, but let him remember that the struggle is to relieve thousands of toilers from conditions worse than death, and that the individual man must be subordinated to the larger good. **ROUMANIA'S ATTITUDE.** Roumania has given no open sign as to how she stands on the Balkan crisis, or as to what part, if any, she will take in the hostilities. But the reasonable presumption, indeed, the unavoidable conclusion, is that she sanctions the war, and has a secret understanding with Bulgaria to that effect. In the conditions and circumstances Roumania is a power to be thoughtfully reckoned with, either as friend or foe, both from the viewpoint of her military strength and that of her relations to Russia. She is the gateway of the Muscovite into Hungary, Serbia and Bulgaria, and with her consent Russia so used her in part to pass into Turkey during the last Russo-Turkish War. The kingdom has a standing army of 60,000 men, and can put into the field 200,000 as intrepid fighters as could be mustered in all Europe. It was the Roumanian army, it will be recalled, which, responding to an almost despairing cry for help, after having been practically flouted, went to the relief of and saved the day for the Russians at Plevna. 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 Daily without Sunday.....40c 20c 10c 10c
 Sunday edition only.....10c 10c 10c 10c
 Weekly (Wednesday).....10c 10c 10c 10c

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—
 Daily with Sunday.....One Week
 Daily without Sunday.....10 cents
 Sunday only.....5 cents

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About time to do that Christmas shopping.

On the Spur of the Moment. By Roy K. Moulton.

How to Furnish a House.

A good many young married couples are probably wondering how they are going to furnish their homes. If they will only follow the advice given by the how-to-be-happy-through-married writers in the magazines their troubles will dissolve into thin air.

A neat and nifty chair can be made out of an old cracker barrel upon end and saw out a front section half way up, leaving the rear section of the barrel to serve as a back to the chair. Nail in a seat and cover the whole with checked gingham or muslin. Nail a bow of blue ribbon on the back of the chair. No other ornament is necessary. It is not necessary to make the structure very substantial as nobody will ever sit in it.

A splendid umbrella rack can be made out of a length of old stovepipe, stood on end and fastened at the bottom to a block of wood one foot square. The stovepipe should be covered with gilt paint, and a few cupids or angels painted on it in blue or green. It will hold seven umbrellas no matter how or where you get them.

It is very easy to make a fireless cooker out of an old soap box and about a nickel's worth of hinges and other hardware. Inside of the box place a large tin can and pack hay or asbestos between the can and the sides of the box. It will cook food as satisfactorily as any high priced cooker, which may or may not be saying very much.

An old red-striped shirt makes a very satisfactory curtain for a small window. The shoulders of the shirt can be tacked to the upper edge of the window and the tail of the shirt can be split up the back so that it can be draped on either side and tied in place by neat bows of yellow ribbon.

Wife Was on the Job.

The eminent politician was getting his handbag packed and was about to go and see Governor Wilson.

"I am going to Seagirt," said he to his wife.

"I never heard of her before, but if you are going to see any girl, I am going with you," was the reply.

Protestations were useless and she went.

These Make Life Worth Living.

Having a tooth drilled. Getting the bill from the plumber. Breaking in a new brier pipe. Trying to eat a juicy salad with a fork.

Listening to an amateur soprano. Attending an author's soiree. Having the neighbor bring back your lawnmower broken.

From the Hickoryville Clarion.

Hank Tumma has bought a thesaurus on the installment plan from a canvasser and it is going to be delivered next week. Hank is building a cage out in the back yard to keep it in, and his wife says she supposes the dumb critter will eat its head off. Hank says it is a prehistorical animal, and he is going to exhibit it at the country fair.

Many and varied are the tribulations of the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" shows which travel around the kerosene circuit. One "Tom" show recently struck here and exhibited a tent. The trouble started when one actor went crazy and nearly put the bloodhound out of business. After the hound had been cared for by local physicians, the show proceeded. During the sad scene when Little Eva was on her way to heaven, she swallowed her false teeth, and it required the efforts of the entire congregation and the doctor to restore her. They finally started to haul her up to heaven when one of the ropes broke and she hit the stage with a bang, but escaped without serious injuries. Eliza had her troubles, too. When she started to cross the ice, it was discovered that the two gentlemen whose duty it was to crawl under the stage carpet and impersonate the cakes of ice, had been home furloughing with the red liquor and were not to be trusted. One of the men appeared in a high state of intoxication, and knocked Simon Legree down three times when the latter appeared with the rawhide. Barring these minor difficulties, the performance ran like clockwork, and the public got its money's worth.

The subject eternal. They hark upon it every day. And have for decades past. Of all the campaign arguments, it is the first and last. It hangs around like Banquo's ghost And won't be scared away. It is the thing they argue most Throughout the entire fray.

Nobody understands it well. And most folks not at all. But still it is the subject on Which all the speakers bawl.

They've fought it out for years and years; They've argued day and night. But still it doesn't seem as though They'll ever fix it right.

They're at it once again this year. They will forget it never. For men may come and men may go, But the tariff goes on forever.

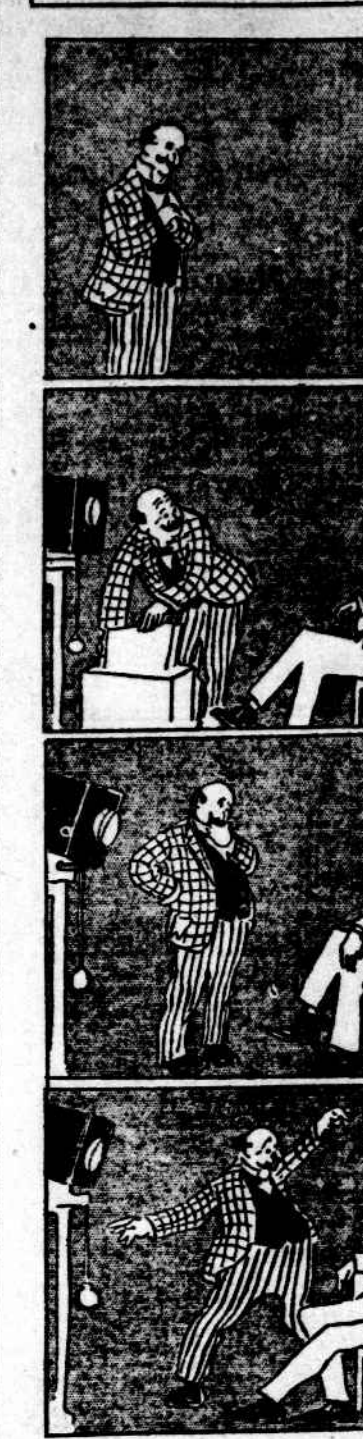
Abe Martin

We will pay you \$100.00 for your car if you will sell it to us. We will pay you \$100.00 for your car if you will sell it to us. We will pay you \$100.00 for your car if you will sell it to us.

From the foregoing, Richmonders must see that Northampton has a comprehensive scheme. On the same principle here, the Woman's College and other educational institutions would become interested. The Smith College faculty heartily supports the Massachusetts idea. President Burton, of the Northampton institution for girls, was asked whether he did not fear the theatre would afford too much diversion for the students, and laughingly replied: "Could anything do that? If we don't provide the diversion they will do it themselves, you know. I think we have here the beginning of something which may hold the same place as the Manchester Theatre in England, and the Irish players in their country. We have all the good technicians here, and all we need is the co-operation of everybody, no matter what his or her walk in life may be. I am interested in this project and am a member of the Northampton Association, and president of the Northampton Association."

BEING PHOTOGRAPHED. By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.]



Voice of the People

Our Own Company in Good Plays.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir, The city of Richmond is big enough to support a permanent set of stock actors. Other cities of these United States have permanent stock companies, and Richmond is large enough to do the same.

Last Sunday's magazine section of the New York Times tells of an experiment in Northampton, Mass., along this line. If a small city in New England can attempt to support a high class stock company, the capital of Virginia should be able to carry through the project successfully, especially since Richmond contains several times the number of inhabitants of Northampton.

The Massachusetts city possesses a municipal theatre. It was presented to the community by a public-spirited citizen. But, it will not be necessary for Richmond to own a theatre in order to establish a permanent stock company here. The Academy of Music is a great part of the reason, and the Citizens' Association, who are to make a permanent stock possible, should easily secure satisfactory terms from the management.

Miss Jessie Bonville, one of the directors of the Northampton project, says: "We have here three different kinds of audiences to please: the old inhabitants, the factory hands, and the college people. At first everybody feared we were going to become an academic institution, but we have a higher purpose. We are the people's players, and this is the people's playhouse."

"For a while now we are holding their pulse, trying to ascertain what kind of plays the public heart reacts the quickest. We began with 'Old Heidelberg,' a romance; next week we will produce 'A Woman's Way,' which is pure comedy. That we will follow with melodrama of the best sort, 'Deep Purple,' and so on. Through the various types of plays, we are going to bring some Shakespeare and, perhaps, a Goldsmith or Sheridan comedy, and we have agreed to give four productions during the year of plays which the college may suggest as being helpful to the girls in their studies. We hope to do the same for the schools, and we have requested every inhabitant in the town to send in suggestions and requests for plays. We are making arrangements with authors to try out plays for them here, and whenever it is feasible, we are going to invite other companies to play in our theatre time and again in the winter months while we rest or visit neighboring cities. The scale of prices will always be the same, and the bill will be changed each week."

From the foregoing, Richmonders must see that Northampton has a comprehensive scheme. On the same principle here, the Woman's College and other educational institutions would become interested. The Smith College faculty heartily supports the Massachusetts idea. President Burton, of the Northampton institution for girls, was asked whether he did not fear the theatre would afford too much diversion for the students, and laughingly replied: "Could anything do that? If we don't provide the diversion they will do it themselves, you know. I think we have here the beginning of something which may hold the same place as the Manchester Theatre in England, and the Irish players in their country. We have all the good technicians here, and all we need is the co-operation of everybody, no matter what his or her walk in life may be. I am interested in this project and am a member of the Northampton Association, and president of the Northampton Association."

One reason for making this Bank your Bank is that the officers and directors are conscious of their responsibility.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Greatest Hymn.

Please tell me what is the world's greatest hymn, who wrote it, and when.

Almost any answer to this question would necessitate some limitation of the principal term. It is likely that you mean by "hymn" words and music for the ceremonial uses of religion, and that you intend "religion" to mean not bar many hymns of literary and artistic merit, except the early Jewish chants, which formed the basis of much of the first music of the Catholic Church.

The weight would attach to any estimate but that of the Church of Rome, because of her age and numbers and her overwhelming authority in literary and artistic things. The judgment, then, which you seem to desire is that of the Roman Church, and this recognized, seven "great hymns" are listed below:

"Veni Creator," Venantius Fortunatus, 550; "Veni Creator," Charlemagne, 800; "Cantemus hymnos," Bernard of Clairvaux, 1155; "Dies Irae," Thomas of Celano, 1250; "Stabat Mater," Jacobus de Benedictis, 1253.

Among these seven opinion seems to select the "Dies Irae" and the "Stabat Mater" as the "greatest" with strong inclination to prefer the former. "Stabat Mater" is a poem of the 12th century, and has been expressed by hundreds of the foremost musical and literary authorities of the world—Mozart, Haydn, Goethe, Schlegel, Dr. Johnson, Dryden, Scott, Milman, Jeremy Taylor, etc., etc. All these hymns have been translated into European languages, and in some cases, notably that of the version of the "Dies" made by Major-General John A. Dix at Fort Monroe in 1862, the translations have been of the